



Information Resource Centers

• The U.S. Diplomatic Mission

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NEWSLETTER FOR ENGLISH TEACHERS October 2005

This Newsletter for English Teachers is a monthly publication by the Information Resource Centers in Germany. It focuses on American Studies topics of relevance to our academic audiences.

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Hurricane Information and Hurricane Relief

Four weeks after Hurricane Katrina emerged out of the Gulf of Mexico, the enormous tragedy and experience that the people of the Gulf Coast are going through is undeniably present for us all.

U.S. Embassy Berlin: Hurricane Information and Hurricane Relief

<http://germany.usembassy.gov/germany/hurricane.html>

Special Coverage: Hurricanes Rita & Katrina

<http://www.lexisnexis.com/news/>

Please find below articles reflecting on Katrina and its aftermath -

Hurricane Katrina: Where Do We Go from Here?

A Brookings Briefing, September 8, 2005, 72p > <http://www.brookings.edu/comm/events/20050908.htm>

"A panel discussion aimed at analyzing the federal, state and local response to Hurricane Katrina and identifying next steps to speed the recovery of the Gulf Coast and its people. Experts on homeland security, the armed services, federalism, and cities discussed the questions that will be most important to policymakers moving forward at all levels of government: ... How can we address the long term recovery of New Orleans and the rest of the region? And what does Hurricane Katrina mean for the congressional agenda and the Bush Administration's agenda?"

Hurricane Katrina

The Cato Institute, September 12, 2005, online edition > <http://www.cato.org/current/katrina.html>

Cato experts comment on the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. The special section includes comment on spending, the organization of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and the role of private charities.

After the Storm: Working Through the Implications of Hurricane Katrina

Public Agenda, Special Edition > <http://www.publicagenda.org/specials/katrina/katrina.cfm>

For days, the nation has been riveted by Hurricane Katrina; the destruction of the storm, the sluggish government response and the violence and desperation facing those waiting for help. The aftermath of Katrina raises questions

about poverty, race, energy policy, the federal budget, in fact just about every corner of American society and the purpose of government itself.

These articles were taken from InfoAlert - InfoAlert highlights recent articles and reports from leading U.S. journals and policy sources and provides informed commentary on international and domestic issues. Many articles are available "full text," some articles maybe password-protected. More articles are available through our InfoAlert service at <http://infoalert.usembassy.de>. To register for a password, please contact us at infoalert.de@state.gov.

Hurricane Katrina is already the most expensive natural disaster in U.S. history. Most Americans are rightly focused on the relief efforts and on the rebuilding of New Orleans and other damaged areas. In addition to providing information on the relief efforts in the aftermath of Hurricanes Rita and Katrina, we will also focus on New Orleans and the unique culture of Louisiana.

New Orleans

New Orleans is often called the *Crescent City* because its original section - the *French Quarter* - lies along a giant curve of the Mississippi River. To this day, the one hundred plus squares of the French Quarter are at the heart of New Orleans' enduring allure. To find out more about the colorful histories of New Orleans and Louisiana, named in honor of the French King Louis XIV, please visit the following **LINKS** -

- Official Tourism Site of the City of New Orleans - <http://www.neworleansonline.com/katrina/index.html>
- Official Web site of the State of Louisiana - <http://www.louisiana.gov/wps/portal/>
- About the USA: Louisiana - <http://usa.usembassy.de/louisiana.htm>
- French Quarter." <http://www.frenchquarter.com/>

Cajuns - are a group of people in Southern Louisiana and Texas who are descendants of French settlers called Acadians. The Acadians came from the Acadia region in Canada, which includes the present day areas of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. The word *Cajuns* comes from *Acadians*.

LINKS **Center for Cultural and Eco Tourism, University of Louisiana** - http://ccet.louisiana.edu/03a_Cultural_Tourism_Files/01.02_The_People/Cajuns.html
Encyclopedia of Cajun Culture
<http://www.cajunculture.com/>

Cajun Country - "French Louisiana, lying amid the bayous, rice paddies, and canebrakes to the west of New Orleans, has become famous in the rest of the country for its food (jambalaya and blackened fish) and music (both Cajun and zydeco). The Cajun culture dates from about 1604, when French settlers colonized a region they called l'Acadie in the present-day Canadian provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. The British seized control of the region in the early 18th century and the French were expelled. Today's Cajun culture in Louisiana is decidedly rural, rooted in a spattering of tiny towns and in the swamps and bayous that wind among them.

Source: http://www.fodors.com/miniguides/mgresults.cfm?destination=new_orleans@110

EXHIBITION

11. bis 27. Oktober 2005
"Images From the Deep South"

Fotografien aus dem tiefen Süden der USA von Axel Küstner
Moritzbastei Leipzig, Universitätsstr. 9, 04109 Leipzig

Eröffnung der Ausstellung mit Jazzporträts und Stadtansichten am 11. Oktober 2005, 19:00 Uhr, im Beisein von Axel Küstner in der Galerie "Barbakan", Moritzbastei. Begrüßung: Mario Wolf (Geschäftsführer der Moritzbastei); Grußwort: Mark L. Wenig (Konsul für Öffentliche Angelegenheiten, Generalkonsulat der USA Leipzig); Es spricht: Reinhard Lorenz (Direktor des Internationalen Jazzarchivs Eisenach).

Cajun French

Cajun French is an oral tradition in which French vocabulary and approximate grammar encounter the American accent; it differs significantly from what is spoken in France. English is also spoken throughout Cajun Country, but travelers will hear Gallic accents and see many signs that read *ici on parle français* (French spoken here). The term *Cajun* is derived from the English pronunciation of the French word *Acadien*.

Some Cajun Phrases

Alors pas:	of course not
Cahbin:	bathroom
Co faire?	Why?
dit mon la verite!	Tell me the truth!
En colaire	to be angry
Fais do-do	to go to sleep
Hot, hot	very hot
Make a bill	buy groceries
Mo chagren	I'm sorry
My eye! my foot!	No way!
slow the TV	turn down the volume

"Cajun French is the term generally used to describe the variety of French spoken in South Louisiana. It originates in the language spoken by the French and Acadian people who settled in Louisiana from its early period of European colonization in the 17th century through later waves of immigration into the late 19th century."

Source: <http://www.artsci.lsu.edu/fai/Cajun/definition.html>

According to the 1990 census, approximately 250,000 Louisianians responded that French was the principal language spoken in their homes. The 2000 census showed 198,784 Louisiana francophones over the age of 5, including 4,470 who speak Creole French.

Source: Council for the Development of French in Louisiana - <http://www.codofil.org/english/index.html>.

LINKS PBS Series: American Varieties: Cajun English -

<http://www.pbs.org/speak/seatosea/americanvarieties/cajun/>

A Cajun French - English Glossary presented by the Department of French Studies at LSU -

<http://www.artsci.lsu.edu/fai/Cajun/glossary.html>

Council for the Development of French in Louisiana -

<http://www.codofil.org/english/index.html>

German-American Day on October 6, 2005



German-American Day celebrates more than 300 years of German immigration to North American shores, beginning with the arrival of 13 Mennonite families from Krefeld on October 6, 1683. Seeking a new life of freedom and opportunity, these immigrants settled in Pennsylvania and founded Germantown near the city of Philadelphia.

German American Day has been celebrated nationwide on October 6th since 1983 when President Ronald Reagan issued the first proclamation

declaring October 6th as German American Day. Each succeeding President has continued to honor the German Americans. Nowadays, German-American Day is a widely celebrated holiday accompanied by Steuben Parades, exhibitions, *Oktoberfests*, other special events.

Please see the White House list of proclamations issued by President George W. Bush for this year's proclamation on German-American Day - <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/proclamations/>.

The IRC team put together a list of links on German-Americans. The site is available by clicking on the icon of the attached document or by checking our Information Resource Center homepage:

Halloween - "Trick or Treat!"

On October 31, **Halloween** (the evening before All Saints or All Hallows Day), American children dress up in funny or scary costumes and go "trick or treating": knocking on doors in their neighborhood. The neighbors are expected to respond by giving them small gifts of candy or money. Adults may also dress in costume for Halloween parties.

Since the 800's November 1st is a religious holiday known as All Saints' Day. The Mass that was said on this day was called Allhallowmas. The evening before became known as All Hallow e'en, or Halloween. Like some other American celebrations, its origins lie in both pre-Christian and Christian customs.



LINKS

About the USA: Halloween

<http://usa.usembassy.de/holidays-halloween.htm>

About the USA: American Holidays

<http://usa.usembassy.de/holidays.htm>

Library of Congress: Happy Halloween!

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/oct31.html>

The History Channel: The History of Halloween

<http://www.historychannel.com/exhibits/halloween/>

Facts for Feature: **106 million** - Number of potential stops for "trick-or-treaters," i.e., housing units occupied year-round. *Source:* U.S. Census Bureau - <http://www.census.gov/prod/2004pubs/H150-03.pdf>

President Bush and Secretary of State Rice Congratulate Afghanistan on Successful Elections: Elections are "major step forward" in country's democratic development



A man approaches a ballot box in Kandahar, Afghanistan, to cast his vote in parliamentary elections September 18. (©AP/WWP)

President Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice send their congratulations to the government and people of Afghanistan for their successful parliamentary elections September 18. The elections "are a major step forward in Afghanistan's development as a democratic state governed by the rule of law," Bush said in a statement issued by the White House the same day.

<http://usinfo.state.gov/sa/Archive/2005/Sep/18-118686.html?nid=nl20050921>

Photo Gallery: Afghanistan's Parliamentary Election

More than 12 million voters cast their ballots for what will be Afghanistan's first entirely democratically elected government. More

than 5,800 candidates, including 582 women, competed in the elections. See the process unfold in photographs.

http://usinfo.state.gov/photogallery/index.php?album=/Afghan_Election_sept2005&?nid=nl20050921

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Bitte senden Sie Ihre Kommentare an ircleipzig@state.gov -
Wir nehmen Ihre Anregungen gerne auf.

EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

http://www.laurarecords.de/daft_2005.htm

